



# stoolball england

## Newsletter - January 2020

### **Welcome to the Stoolball England Newsletter for January 2020.**

I can only apologise for the lack of newsletters last year. Stoolball England are 100% volunteer run and would like a volunteer to take on the role of Press and Publicity Officer. This newsletter could be their first duty.

This issue includes:-

1. The Chairman's report from the 40th AGM
2. Notes from the 40th AGM
3. England stoolball versus England rounders update
  4. Exciting coaching news
  5. The health of stoolball
  6. Winter leagues update

### **The Chairman's report from the 40th AGM**

Another busy year as we continue to invest in coaching and increased participation as well as the day to day tasks of running any organisation. This has involved us in participating or holding a number of community events: The Worthing primary schools sports day, Sussex Schools Games and a drop-in event in Portslade to name just a few.

In addition Anita Broad, Vice-Chairman, and Education and Research Officer in particular attends conferences and courses to try and promote stoolball and generally network with sports organisers and governing bodies in our traditional area and further afield. One paragraph in a report doesn't do justice to the vast amount of time that is spent trying to promote stoolball, particularly by Anita. Some of the

contacts and events may take time to realise their potential but we believe it will be worth it in the long term. Two important matters that have already come to fruition is the opportunity to play Rounders England at both rounders and stoolball in May next year and being awarded a lottery grant of £7590 to develop a coaching workforce that can promote and deliver stoolball to schools, clubs and community groups.

The showcase events each year are the England matches in July, which were held at Ardingly College and Mynthurst cricket club. I am grateful to all those who participated to make both days a success.

The dates for 2020 are the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July, please keep these dates free so we can have full participation from all of our member organisations.

Finally a massive thanks to the whole committee for their dedication and hard work. We strive to do as much as we can to promote stoolball in as many ways as we can but we have limited resources and only a relatively small number of people.

## **Notes from the 40th AGM**

The 40th AGM was attended by all Divisions of SCSA, Surrey, Coastal, Chanctonbury, West Kent and Mid-Sussex Mixed. We were also delighted that three Vice-presidents were in attendance - Delia Saunders, Peter Cheesman and John Pritchett.

There were the following changes to the Management Committee:-

- Rick Mason has stepped down. The meeting thanked him for all his services over the last 15+ years
- Georgie Harrison has stepped down as Sussex Youth Ambassador, as she is now Treasurer and no longer playing in Sussex.
  - Sophie Dunn has become Youth Ambassador Sussex.
  - We are looking for a young player to become Youth Ambassador Surrey.
  - We are also looking for further Officers for the Management Committee.
- Please be informed that this year 2020, we will be having another rules review. Please let us know if there are any rules that might need amending.

We have a set of "pop up posters", roller banners that tell the story of stoolball. If you know of any empty shop that could do with a nice stoolball display, please be in touch with us at

**info@stoolball.org.uk.**



## England stoolball versus England rounders update

The date set for our England Stoolball v England Rounders national challenge match is **Sunday 24th May**. Please keep this date free.

We are looking for a prestige venue in either Surrey, North Sussex or Kent, close to the M25. This is because most of the rounders internationals live in the Midlands. We have a number of venues that we are investigating.

## Exciting coaching news

Stoolball England is celebrating after being awarded £7590 of National Lottery funding from Sport England to develop a new coaching workforce.

The grant will allow Stoolball England to train eight new coaching tutors who will develop and promote stoolball to schools, clubs and the wider community across Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Hampshire and beyond.

Building a new coaching workforce will enable Stoolball England to offer coaching courses to stoolball clubs, schools, community groups and accreditation courses to sports and activity deliverers. Train the Trainer course will be a 2-day course, could take place on different weekends or on the same weekend, this is to be decided.

The total cost of Phase 1 is estimated to be £10,460.

Please contact [info@stoolball.org.uk](mailto:info@stoolball.org.uk) for more details or to register interest in becoming a Stoolball England Coach.

## **The health of stoolball**

There seems to be constant news of clubs struggling or folding. We need to do more to retain these clubs. We need to ask them "How can we help you?". Most leagues have lost teams recently. Sussex County have gone from 45 clubs about 15 years ago to 34 clubs now. The central belt of Sussex has recently lost Ansty, Balcombe, Crawley Down, East Grinstead and Ashdown.

We have heard that the indoor league at Oathall School, Burgess Hill has stopped after many years but the good news is the indoor sessions at Plumpton College will now resume next week.

Should a league that only plays once a week be created? Some clubs struggle to play twice a week and new teams are likely to be much more comfortable playing once a week. They would then have more time for practice and coaching.

Another idea is to run a village tournament, could be ladies but usually mixed, and invite all the village organisations along. It is a good way of advertising your club and telling a wider audience what a good game stoolball is.

We have heard that some fringe players want to be more involved. We play limited over stoolball, should bowlers be restricted to the number of overs they bowl?

Playing indoors throughout the winter is more "inclusive" as you tend to need at least 5 bowlers, batters retire at 25 runs and some teams rotate fielding positions at the end of each over. It also keeps the team together over the winter period.

## **Winter leagues update**

Stoolball England have been running indoor leagues at Horsham and Tonbridge this winter and they have both reached the halfway stage. Matches resume at Horsham on Monday 6th Jan and at

Tonbridge on Weds 15th Jan. There are the current league tables.

### League table for the Stoolball England (Horsham) Indoor League, 2019/20 season

Summary Table Map Statistics

#### Results table for this season

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Runs scored	Runs conceded	Points
<a href="#">Loxwood/Oakwood Hill</a>	4	4	0	0	0	667	360	8
<a href="#">Dorking</a>	4	3	1	0	0	539	478	6
<a href="#">Winterfold</a>	4	2	2	0	0	400	404	4
<a href="#">Alfold/North Holmwood</a>	3	2	1	0	0	412	403	4
<a href="#">Wisborough Green</a>	3	1	2	0	0	394	463	2
<a href="#">Barns Green</a>	3	0	3	0	0	233	482	0
<a href="#">Broadbridge Heath</a>	3	0	3	0	0	259	314	0

### League table for the Stoolball England (West Kent) Indoor League, 2019/20 season

Summary Table Map Statistics

#### Results table for this season

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Points
<a href="#">Causeway Ladies</a>	4	4	0	0	0	8
<a href="#">Ashurst and Blackham Ladies</a>	4	2	2	0	0	4
<a href="#">Penshurst Ladies</a>	4	2	2	0	0	4
<a href="#">Fordcombe Ladies</a>	4	1	3	0	0	2
<a href="#">Hildenborough Ladies</a>	4	1	3	0	0	2

We hope to be able to produce a newsletter more regularly in 2020 and will keep you up-to-date with the stoolball v rounders match and the coaching initiative.

Best wishes for the coming year,  
Richard Emsley, Membership Officer